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ABSTRACT

From 1997-2001, the Kentucky Historical Society and the Kentucky Arts Council have cosponsored an annual Kentucky Folklife Festival to celebrate the traditions of diverse groups from across the state. Folklife, or folklore, includes traditions that are shared by a group of people who have a mutual background or interest. Folklore can be expressed in a variety of ways, including jokes, stories, food, art, games, dance, music, yard decorations, and holiday celebrations. The folklife that abounds in every community can provide students with vital lessons about Kentucky's rich cultural heritage. As a multidisciplinary experience, folklife can be the focus for a unit of study or enrich units on many social studies, arts, and humanities themes. The resources in this teacher's guide are drawn from festival themes and suggest many ways to incorporate folklife into the curriculum. Materials in the guide can be used for preparation or follow-up for the festival or in units on other topics. These include: a game that introduces students to folklife; guidelines for finding local tradition bearers and conducting interviews; essays by folklife scholars about five types of folklore; sample classroom activity plans based on traditions featured at the festival; ideas for additional activities that integrate folklife and other disciplines; and suggested background reading, tapes, videos, and children's books about folklife. Most of the guide's activity plans are written for upper elementary and middle school students, but they can be modified for many age groups. (BT)

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